

City of San Antonio
Planning Department
Historic Preservation Office

1901 South Alamo
San Antonio, Texas 78204
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/planning/Historic.asp>

Property Research Guide

Several different sources may have to be consulted to assemble a complete history of a property:

Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library; 300 Alamo Plaza; 210-225-1071

- City Directories
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps

San Antonio Conservation Society; 107 King William Street; 210-224-6163

- City Directories
- Library
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps

San Antonio Public Library – Central Branch; 600 Soledad; 210-207-2500

- City Directories (hard copies and microfilm)

UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures; 801 South Bowie Street; 210-458-2228

- Library
- San Antonio Light Photo Collection

It is advisable to call before going to the above institutions to verify hours of operation, availability of source materials, and any fees that may apply.

City Directories – produced about every two years beginning in 1861, contain listings of most city businesses and residents and their addresses and phone numbers. For residents, occupations or employers are also shown. Although the city directories are a useful source of property data, the address listed should be cross-referenced with the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps because the streets may have been renumbered.

Deed and Tax Records – available in the basement of the Bexar County Courthouse, may be used to research transfer and use of historic properties, often including fairly detailed information about when improvements were constructed or modified.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps – produced or updated about every five years from 1877 to about 1952, accurate scale maps that depict city streets, blocks, lots, addresses, and outlines of structures within selected portions of San Antonio. They also contain annotations regarding the use of properties and the materials of structures. Hard copies can be accessed at the above locations or digital versions can be viewed at <http://sanborn.umi.com>.

Title Company Records – often contain a wealth of information concerning past property ownership and uses. Most charge a fee for access to their records. In spite of the fees, title companies may be the most rapid and cost-effective means of obtaining such information.